VI

The TRIUMPH of TRUTH:

IN

An Exact and Impartial

RELATION

OF THE

LIFE and CONVERSATION

OF

OL.

Clames Turner

Which he Imparted to an Intimate Friend a little before His EXECUTION.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

His Deportment and Discourses in Prison: The manner of his Execution and Burial.

WITH

Other Occurrences never yet made publique,

AND

Now published as a seasonable Warning for others to avoid such strange Miscarriages.

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The TRIUMPH *of* TRUTH: *in an Exact and Impartial Relation of the Life and Converſation of Collonel* JAMES TURNER; *which he imparted to an Intimate Friend, a little before his Execution.*

CHAPTER I.

The Birth and Breeding of Col. James Turner, *his Marriage, and firſt taking up of Armes.*

AS the Memory of Good men ought not to be buried in Silence, but that men by reading their Heroick Actions may be ſtirred up to an Emulation of Vertue; ſo the Remembrance of the Wicked ſhould not be forgotten, that men by reading the puniſhments of vicious livers, might be deterred from the committing of lewd actions: And herein examples work more with the People than Precepts; eſpecially when men eminently known come to be examples of Juſtice: For the terrours of Puniſhment works more with many to deter them from vice, than the promiſes of reward doth exciteothers to the perſuit of virtue. To this end is the life of this perſon ſet forth, that others by his Extravagancies, and the evil effects attending

thereon, may learn Sobriety, and to live a regular and well order'd life. In the perſuit of our intended deſign, we ſhall avoid all unneceſſary impertinencies, and with as much brevity as may be, declare to the World, what are known to be verities concerning the whole progreſſe of his Life and Converſation; and herein we are reſolved to ſteer an even courſe, neither ſwerving to the one hand nor the other, for favour or envy; that ſo avoiding this *Scylla* and *Charybdis*, our Relation of him may find free acceptance with all people.

James Turner (commonly called or known by the name of Capt. or Col. *Turner*) was born about the year of our Redemption 1608. He was the Son of a Reverend Divine, Miniſter of *Hadley* in *Middleſex*, not far from *Barnet*, of which he was Parſon above 40. years, being a Divine of the Primitive ſtamp and temper, that expreſſed his Faith by his Works; a friend to the Poor, a Mediator in any differences among the rich, eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame; in ſhort (according to his ability) none more forward in good works then he. This his Son, *James Turner*, he brought up to School for the attainment of ſome ſufficiency in Learning, where he firſt began to ſhow his pranks, which were ſo unhandſome, that his very Schoolfellowes took ſuch a diſlike of him, that as much as in them lay they ſhunned his Company.

Afterwards for his future fortune, he bound him an Apprentice to a Sempſter (or one that ſells Linnen Clothes ready made) at the lower end of *Cheapſide*, neer the *Mitre*-Tavern; which time he ſerved, though with much regret to his Neighbours, who likewiſe by reaſon of his unlucky actions had ever an evil opinion of him.

For, to relate to the mad Figgaries he had during his Apprentiſhip, would of themſelves make up a ſufficient Volume; no unhappy action done, wherein he had not a hand, if he were not a principal; yet was he always ſo cunning to carry on his buſineſſe, that his extravagancies were by his Maſter rather deemed youthful excurſions, or harmleſſe Figgaries, then any innate miſchief, or wilful acting of what was bad, though others

others of his Neighbours had a contary opinion, and by a bloody morning did foretell a diſmal afternoon.

His Time being out, he married a Gentlemans Daughter of *Shaſton* in *Dorſet-ſhire*, one of the *Foyles*, a Family of good account in that Country; Afterwards he ſet up for himſelf in the *Round Court* in St. *Martins le Grand* neer the *Shoo-makers*, which Trade he continued for ſome ſhort time: but the ſmall profit redounding from a private ſhop, was not correſpondently agreeing with thoſe high Chymera's his vaſt imaginations had prompted unto him; and his ambition ſoaring a higher pitch, he reſolved to throw his Chance in Fortunes Lottery. The Times then ſuited well to his purpoſe, being thoſe fatal dayes wherein the Nation was engaged in an uncivil Civil War; and firſt (as neareſt) he ſought to ingratiate himſelf into the Parliaments ſide, endevouring an advancement under them, and was very active to promote his own intereſt, thinking by taking up Arms to have brought him to have wound himſelf out of many troubles, which his litigious nature, and vexatious ſpirit had brought him to: But a turbulent perſon hath many enemies, who prevailed ſo far that he was in danger to have been taken by the Officers and Serjeants at Arms, ſo that he was forced to make a Virtue of Neceſſity, and abandoning *London*, for the amendment of his fortunes, to turn Royaliſt.

Chap. II.

His Actions in the Army, with ſome mad frolicks which he committed.

His firſt appearance in the Kings Army was very low accompanied onely with three or four Companions. But being a *Londoner*, he was the more welcome; and having gotten a Commiſſion, he made uſe of his wits to raiſe a Troop, Commanding many of the Country-men who lived in the Villages, to ride with him to *New-Caſtle*, which they were per-

ſwaded unto, upon promiſe they ſhould not ſtay above three or four dayes; where getting Amunition for a whole Troop, he became a Captain under the Marqueſſe of *New-Caſtle*. In which Military condition he continued four years, during which ſpace of time we cannot greatly applaud his Manhood, for we hear of no wonders performed by him, nor was his courage ſo great, but that (I conceive) the Iliads of his valour might be comprized in a Nutſhel. His chiefeſt valour conſiſting in plundering, for which he was called *The Plunderer of the North*. In which action being very buſy, one day in a Town in the *North*, a Party of the Parliament Soldiers came in, who was ſo buſie at his work, that had not one cryed to him, Col. *Turner*, Col. *Turner*; he had been taken: So that for his refuge, he was forced to run, and that with all the ſpeed he could; yet did he receive one ſhot in the Neck, which was all the wounds he could ever boaſt of.

One thing very remarkable is commonly reported of him, namely, that during his command, he ſent a Warrant to a Conſtable to provide Quarters for him and his men, and over and above for himſelf in particular a handſome Laſſe: the Conſtable was willing to obey him in the one, but having not ſuch a command as Mr. *Turner*, could not tell how to ſatisfie him in the other; whereupon he was threatned to be hanged, and being of a fooliſh temerity, to avoid what was afterwards the deſtiny of the Captain, he permitted him the enjoyment of his own Wife, whom he kept three or four dayes; but afterwards (as being contrary to the Rules of War) he was called to an accompt for it, when to juſtifie himſelf, he ſent for the Conſtables Wife (whom he belike, had ſo pleaſed) that ſhe cleared him of any incivility to her, before the Council of War.

Thus Women (if they liſt) can hide mens crime,
And none ſhall er'e be hang'd before their time.

But one exploit he uſed much to boaſt of, which we will relate, leaving the Reader to believe as he pleaſes; namely, That he being with a Party of men gathering of Contribution neer

neer to *Newberry*, he was ſet upon by a party of the enemies Horſe, of far greater number then they were: but according to his order, making faſt their Bags to the Bowes of their Saddles, (which proved a defence to their Belly and Groyns) he gave them a deſperate Charge, and very manfully hacked their way out quite thorough the Enemy, both men and money coming ſafely off to *Wallingford-Caſtle*.

Thus ſome can boaſt, although they make a Lye on't:
For evermore the Knight muſt beat the Gyant.

It is likewiſe reported that in a Skirmiſh betwixt ſome ſmall Parties neer *Stevenage* in *Bedfordſhire*, he was beaten and taken Priſoner; when for his Ranſome he gave a ring with a Stone in it, which he ſaid was worth 100 *l.* but the Victor afterwards found it worth no more then 5 *s.* But this Rhodomontade humour was not ſo much to be blamed in him, it being for his liberty.

During this War he had plundered and laid up much money for his future occaſions, whereas the other Royaliſts in ſtead of getting, loſt almoſt all they had; here we may commend his providence, though we muſt condemn his Conſcience, in plundering for his private gain his own Countrey people.

The War now being expired, he with ſeveral other Gentlemen for ſome facts they had committed, were kept Priſoners at *York*, their crimes were ſome Miſdemeanors during the War, all the Gentlemen ſaving only *Turner* pleaded Not guily, but he (whoſe Indictments were ſaid to be no leſſe then 65. he himſelf telling the Judge, *That if he ſtaid one hour longer there would be no leſs then 99.* pleaded Guilty, and the day of his Tryal had as many diſhes of meat as there were Indictments againſt him, all carried up in ſight of the Court, and at withal laid a wager of five pounds he ſhould be hanged that Aſſizes: Being demanded his Reaſon therefore; he ſaid, *If he lived he did not value the five pound, and if he dyed it would ſerve to buy Gloves and Ribbons for his friends*; which frolick together with his Plea to the Jury, *viz. Whether they would not have done the*

ſame

ſame if they had been under the like command? brought him off clear without the leaſt Fine or Damage: Whereas, the other Gentlemen, who pleaded, Not Guilty, and ſtood to the defence of their Cauſe by Diſproof of Witneſſes, *&c.* Were by the Jury found guilty, and loſt their lives.

CHAP. III.

Turner's *returning to* London, *his wayes to enrich himſelf, and of the great port he lived in.*

SOon after this, he returned again to *London*, and knowing it in vain to ſtrive againſt the ſtream, he reſolved for his profit, to have a ſeeming Complyance with the adverſe party, ſitting amongſt the Committees of *Goldſmiths* and *Haberdaſhers-Hall*, upon Compoſitions for Delinquents Eſtates; but thoſe Foxes were too cunning to be deceived, and the place of ſuch great profit, as it was coveted after by ſome of their own Gang, and he being known to have been one of the other ſide, he was forced to abandon that employment quite.

Thus did he run diviſions like a dog in a halter, for his active ſpirit would never be at reſt, well knowing that Idleneſſe is the Mother of Poverty, and having gotten ſome ſmall ſtore of money formerly in the Army, he ſpared for no coſt either of Clothes or otherwiſe, to bear a port equal to the beſt; and having thereby ſcrewed himſelf into the Acquaintance of ſome men of good account, he pretended to a great perfection of Skill in all Affairs: And firſt he began to manage poor mens Cauſes, whoſe charges he disburſed out of his own pocket, which won him very high Commendations, and was very acceptable to injured people, who very much applauded him for it.

This brought him into more employment amongſt the great ones, ſo that what betwixt Broaking and Solliciting he grew very famous, and withal got ſtore of money, for the condition

on of ſome people is ſo given to contention, that they will do no right, nor ſuffer any wrong; and where ſuch Seeds of Diviſion are ſown, there the Lawyers reap golden Harveſts. So that now he flaunts it with the braveſt, Taverns and Ordinaries are daily frequented, rich and coſtly garments provided, high prized Jewels daily worn, not a dinner could be made under ſeven or eight ſeveral diſhes of meat, nor the leaſt journey gone without a Coach: Yea, nothing wanted which might conduce to an outward happineſſe. And that he might be the more taken notice of, he kept a high prized Gelding, with which he ambled up and down the City, and was ſo bold, that upon the Kings moſt happy Reſtauration, when the Lords and Gentry went to meet him, he thruſt himſelf into the company of the Barons, riding moſt ſumptuouſly in his Foot Cloth, attended by his Foot-boy; but being known by the Marſhal, that it was only the Aſſe that marched in the Lyons Skin, he was by him ſufficiently Cane'd for his audacious boldneſſe. Yet notwithſtanding this Check, he always afterwards kept up a ſtately port, ſo that none was more notice taken of then he, for had he come by in his Coach (as he often did) in the night, upon Col. *Turners* name, the very Watchmen would tremble, whom yet he would often reward with money: but his terrible Oaths, being ſo habituated to Swearing, would make a good Chriſtian quake to hear him. But though his Vices were very great, yet had he many things in him worthy of commendation, being very charitable to poor diſtreſſed Cavaliers, whom he would entertain at his own Table, and if it were his Chance to be in their Company with him at Taverns, he would pay their ſhare out of his own pocket, and lend them money beſides.

High active ſpirits commonly excell
Either in doing ill, or doing well.

Hitherto no great blemiſhes were lay'd on his practice, which now began to be very great, being acquainted with moſt of the monyed men in *London*: His frequent dealings were in the ſales of Lands decreed in Chancery, and the recovery of Right

Right and Title to Lands unjuſtly holden from the true heirs. In which he had ſuch a multitude of buſineſſe, that he kept two Clerks conſtantly a writing, or running about his buſineſſe. He alſo dealt very much in Jewels, by the ſale and bartering of which to perſons of quality he gained exceedingly, ſo that his incomes were valued at ſeven or eight hundred pound a year; yet by reaſon of his extravagancies we cannot conceive he laid up much for his poſterity.

But in proſecution of his Deſigns he met with many opponents, particularly one *Batchelor*, who lived neer *Fenchurch-ſtreet*, who having (as he thought) received ſome wrong from Collonel *Turner*, got a friend of his to Write a Pamphlet againſt him, wherein amongſt other baſe paſſages this was one, *viz.* *This ſame* Turner *was Knighted in the Field for ſlaying, killing, and undoing the good and well affected People of this Nation; a moſt dangerous and active fellow, and for his Services ſo rewarded*, &c. This he did out of revenge to render him obnoxious to the Uſurper, though it proved rather to his Reputation, he himſelf taking great delight in the repetition of it; nor would ever contradict it, but would ſay, *If he had an Eſtate of Lands and value, he would ſoon be a Knight; but his Condition as a Broker, and Solicitor, did not comport thereunto.*

Chap. IV.

Some conjectural Miſdemeanours of Mr. Turner, *with ſome other mad frolicks performed by him.*

SEveral other matters are by common report laid to his charge, *viz.* that one Mr. *Clench* of *Cambridge*, having occaſions for money, borrowed 400 *l.* upon a Farm called *Bendiſh* in that County, and made uſe of Mr. *Turner* for the procuring of it; who pretended that becauſe his Lands lay ſo far diſtant, he muſt give Bond, together with perſonal ſecurity, for the payment thereof at the appointed day. But Mr. *Clench*

Clench upon the payment of the money, onely took up his Mortgage, but forgot the Bond, which was afterward ſued and recovered againſt him. Another ſtory is reported of him, that he ſhould deceive a young Gentleman of 60 *l.* upon promiſe of procuring him a *Mandamus* from the King, for a Fellowſhip in *Cambridge*. Alſo another rumour is commonly ſpread abroad, namely, that by his procurement he ſhould ſupply the Tyrant *Oliver*, with Twenty thouſand pounds to pay his Soldiers, who were then in a condition of Mutyning. But for the truth of theſe, I ſhall deſire the Reader to ſuſpend his belief, being cautious in our Relation, to caſt any juſt aſperſion upon the dead.

But another thing real we ſhall impart unto you, wherein he received a foul Check, namely, in his dealing with one Mr. *Galilee* in *Finch-lane*, who pretended a right to an Eſtate of an Hundred pounds *per annum*, in *Norfolk*; and hearing of Col. *Turner's* abilities, bargained with him for the ſum of 50 *l.* paid ready down, to proſecute his Title, and did afterwards pay him ſeveral ſums of mony incident to the charges that belonged thereunto: Which Suit being commenced in the *Exchequer* (according to the cuſtomary proceedings of that Court) a Leſſee was named, which was one *Sampſon*, and he by the appointment of *Galilee*, as *Turner* affirmed. But before it came to a Trial, *Galilee* ſold his right, ſo that *Sampſon* was overthrown, and an Execution for Coſts taken out againſt him; who thereupon made his application to *Galilee*, that now diſowned the matter, and ſaid he never named him upon that account. Hereupon high differences roſe betwixt *Turner* and *Galilee*, who brought an Indictment of *Barratry* againſt *Turner*, and ſwore it himſelf, with an atteſtation of ſeveral other Witneſſes which put *Turner* to great trouble, and notwithſtanding he produced ſeveral perſons for teſtification of his honeſty; yet the Jury found him guilty; but the Court was not ſo well ſatisfied therewith, whereupon the buſineſſe was referred to Sir *William Wild*, who awarded *Turner* that he ſhould pay to *Galilee* either 40. or 50. pounds; the whole Charges amounting to no leſſe than three hundred pounds.

To allay theſe, and ſome other troubles which he had, he

had many Commical Frolicks, of which to relate one or two may not be unpleasant to the Reader. He having one time made one of his Company dead drunk, caused the Bell to be toll'd, and sent for a Chimney-sweeper to be his Doctor, and the Searchers to view his Corps, giving them 12 *d.* a peice for their pains.

At another time, having occasion to go to *Colchester*, upon the Arrest of a certain man, he took for his assistance some Officers from the *Compter*, as special Bailiffs (which he many times before had done) having done his business, he bought a Pipe of Canary of his Land-lord of the House, and gave it freely to all Comers; and from thence carried his Company to *Bishops-Starford* in *Hartford-shire*, where in the like frolicks he spent 40 *l.* more.

Another of his frolicks was at *Colchester* aforesaid, where he hired a Waggon to carry away all the Dead he should kill; and to affright the People, caused all the Swords that belonged to his Company, to be hanged drawn, out of the Window; which so amazed the Man of the House, that he commanded his Hostler to stop up the Well in the yard with Hay, that none of the slain might be put in there.

This his ungoverned Prodigality, brought him of late out of money, which (as I conceive) was the occasion to make him undertake this dishoneſt shift, to peece out his Ruins by base Attempts, rather than to sink obscurely into a Goal, and there lie an object of misery. The manner whereof we shall declare unto you.

Chap. V.

An exact relation of the manner of the Robbery of Mr. Tryon.

About *Christmas* last, he consulted with some persons about this Grand Robbery, and had gotten for his turn three men fit for the purpose, *viz.* one *William Turner* a Butcher,

cher, *James White* a Soliciter, and another perſon, *White*'s friend. The main of their Deſign was to be carried on by Collonel *Turner* himſelf, which was for the Robbery of Mr. *Francis Tryon* a Merchant in *Lime-ſtreet*, with whom *Turner* was very intimate, and knew all paſſages belonging to the houſe; upon their firſt meeting for the undertaking of the buſineſſe, one of their Company being drunk, it was laid aſide for that time; *White* (one of the actors) proteſting he would not venture his life with one in his Condition. But not long after, *viz.* the 7. of *January*, they met again at the *Red-Lyon* in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, where they Dined together, and then reſolved upon the Robbery that night, appointing to meet there again by Six of the Clock in the Afternoon; but coming thither, the room was taken up by other Gueſts, wherefore they went over to the *Foure Swans* or *Green Dragon*, and there ſtaid till Eight a Clock; from thence they removed to the *New-Market* in *Leaden-hall*, where three of them ſate upon the Stalls, till the Collonel went out for Inteligence, who after half an hours ſpace returned, bringing them word that the Man and Maid were both gone out, and that now was their time; whereupon away they went, and coming to the place, Col. *Turner* unlocked the dore (having before got the impreſſion of the Key in ſoft wax, and had one made anſwerable unto it) then went they up the Stairs, *Turner* leading the way, and in the Kitchin light a Candle, and ſo went immediately up to Mr. *Tryon*'s Chamber, where two of them put a Cloth into his mouth, and bound his hands and feet, whileſt *Turner* at the Beds feet took the Keys of his Warehouſe, and Counting-houſe out of his pocket; and whileſt they were buſy in gaging him, he in the mean time ſearches the Cloſet, where he finds the Jewels, and pockets them privately, not acquainting his Companions therewith. But there was ſtore of Money beſide, with which they ſeverally loaded themſelves, to the value of 1023 *l.* This was done all in the ſpace of an hours time; which money they carried to one *Nicholas Higginſon*'s houſe, at *Lowſie-lane* in *Dukes Place*, which they hired ſome dayes before, pretending it for the uſe of a Maſter of a Ship, his Mate, Purſer, and Boat-Swain. The next

morning *Turner* fetcht away the money to his own house, giving to *White* and his Friend onely Twenty pound a peice for their pains, and promised *William Turner* a hundred pound.

Soon after they were gone, Mr. *Tryon* got the gag out of his mouth, and though bound tumbled out of his Bed; in doing which he fell upon an earthen Chamber-pot, and hurt himself sorely; but recovering his legs and getting to the Window, called out Murder and Theives, which being next the Street his Neighbours heard him, and with a Crow of Iron broke open the dore (for *Turner* had locked it after him,) and unbound him; then did they see how he was robbed, but the Man and Maid being missing caused some suspition of them, who presently after came, pretending they had been at Supper at Col. *Turner's*, which was not so; whereupon a Constable went to examine the business, who found Col. *Turner* and his Family in bed, who likewise (upon the request of the Constable) went along with him to Mr. *Tryon's*, where he kept such a bustle about the business, that his too overmuch diligence gave him cause to be suspected; which suspition was afterwards aggravated, by his listning to hear when others were examined, the Man and Maid being at that time throughly sifted by Sir *Thomas Aleyn*, who took a great deal of pains in the business; however *Turner* was let go that night, and in the morning betimes removed the money from his own house, to the house of one Mrs. *Fry* a Sempstresse at the lower end of the *Minories*, pretending it to be the money of a Merchant newly broke, who having a Wife and seven or eight Children, desired to have it secured. This business Mrs. *Fry* reveals to a Kinswoman of hers in the house, who having been formerly a Servant to Alderman *Love*, and hearing of Mr. *Tryon's* Robbery, suspected the money was not well gotten, and thereupon acquainted her Master Alderman *Love* of it; who as speedily informed Sir *Thomas Aleyn* thereof; Sir *Thomas* therefore taking a Foot-boy with him, speedeth down, and in the way meeting with Major *Tasker* desired his Company to go along with him, which he accordingly did; and entering the house of Mrs. *Fry*, found Col. *Turner* with his hands in a Chest, wherein was two Wallets of money, one of a 100 *l.* the other 200 *l.* Sir *Thomas* took the Keys from him,

and

and going into another Room, found two Wallets of money more. Then was a Conſtable called for, and *Turner* being examined whoſe money it was, he ſaid he had received it of a Goldſmith, but could not tell his name; being further asked why he ſhould remove his own money, he anſwered he onely did it for two or three dayes, till this Foolery was over.

Whileſt thus they were arguing the matter, *John Turner* the Son (who had helped to bring the money thither) hearing how the buſineſſe went, got out by a back dore, and leaping over a pale behind the houſe, made an eſcape; but the Collonel, though he pretended he were in perſuit of the Theives, and therefore deſired freedome to goe about it, yer would not Sir *Thomas* grant it, but calling for a Coach, (in company with Major *Tasker* and the Conſtable) brought him to Mr. *Tryon's* houſe, telling him he had brought him 500 *l.* of his money, and did not doubt but alſo a perſon that could help him with the reſt he had loſt; but *Turner* having ſpoken with Mr. *Tryon* in private, upon promiſe of helping him to all the next day about four or five a clock in the afternoon, he was permitted to go at Liberty.

The next day he went to the *Exchange*, as he formerly uſed to do, where about two a Clock he was arreſted in the Streets by the two *Coles*, (at the ſuit of four Officers of the *Poultrey* Compter, who had bailed him to a Writ of one Mr. *Van de Burgh* a *Dutch* Merchant) who carried him to the *Hoop* Tavern, where they ſtay'd him, in the mean time his Wife brought the Jewels to Mr. *Tryon's*, ſo that he had all his again. But the matter was ſo apparent againſt Mr. *Turner*, that Sir *Thomas Aleyn* by Warrant committed him to *Newgate*, whether he was carried about one or two a Clock the ſame night, and *January* the 15. and 16. he was Arraigned for the ſame at *Juſtice Hall* in the *Old Bailey*, where he was by the Jury found Guilty, and on the 19 day of the ſame moneth had Sentence of death pronounced upon him.

Thus though that Felons to eſcape may hope,
At laſt they are rewarded with a Rope.

The ſame day Col. and *William Turner* were by Sir *Thomas Aleyn* examined apart; who finding their Deſigne fully diſcovered, declared the manner of it as we have mentioned it unto you.

CHAP. VI.

The Paſſages betwixt Col. Turner *and Mr.* Ordinary *of* Newgate; *with the manner of his Going to Execution.*

SOon after his Condemnation, Mr. *Welden* the Ordinary of *Newgate* went unto him, telling him he was a Dying man (being dead in Law) and very earneſtly preſſed foure things unto him.

Firſt, That as he was an open Sinner, ſo that he would make open Confeſſion of his ſins, urging to that purpoſe the ſaying of the *Wiſe-man* in his Book of *Proverbs*; *He that hideth his ſins ſhall not proſper, but he that confeſſeth and forſaketh them ſhall find mercy.*

Secondly, A hearty Contrition for his enormous Offences which had brought that juſt judgement of God upon him.

Thirdly, A Reſtitution; for words without deeds was but a feigned and hypocritical Repentance. And,

Fourthly, Charity, to forgive others, as he would that God for Chriſt's ſake ſhould forgive him.

He preſſed much to him the Meſſage which the Prophet *Iſaiah* brought to *Hezekiah*; viz. *Set thy houſe in order, for thou ſhalt die and not live.* He told him that by *houſe* was meant not onely his temporal but his ſpiritual body; that the Body in reſpect of the Soul was but as the ſhell to the kernel, or as the Jewel to the Caſe which encloſed it; what a ſmall minute

minute of time he had left him betwixt that & the infinite ſpace of Eternity; therefore what great need he had to make the beſt improvement of that ſhort time; with many other ſuch like ſpeeches, which wrought very much upon him, declaring by many outward ſigns a reall ſorrow for his hainous crimes; not onely weeping bitterly, but by many expreſſions declared his hearty unfeigned Contrition.

Afterwards on Tueſday he deſired to receive the Sacrament, the *Ordinary* asked him (becauſe he would have no more Wine then needed) how many would Communicate with him? he replyed, his Wife and two Sons; but they being asked, did refuſe; Mrs. *Turner* alledging ſhe was not in Charity with ſome perſons whom ſhe imagined too eager in proſecution of Juſtice againſt her Husband; but Mr. *Ordinary* preſt ſo much a neceſſity of her reconciliation, and gave her ſuch ſound advice, that ſhe willingly imbraced to be pertaker in that Holy Ordinance; but their two Sons did not receive it.

Whileſt thus he prepared himſelf for Death, he was not negligent in uſing all endevours for the prolongation of his Life. To this end he deſired Mr. *Tryon* to accompany his Wife with a Petition to his Majeſty for a Reprive, which they accordingly delivered upon their knees in the Long Gallery; but the King told them he could not do it, having received ſuch an account of him from the Judges and Magiſtrates of the City of *London*; and being humbly requeſted for a reſpite for ſome few weeks, he would not conſent for ſo few dayes.

This not prevailing, he deſired Mr. *Ordinary* to move the Lord Chancellor in the buſineſſe, propounding two reaſons to perſwade him thereto; the firſt was, the ſhortneſſe of the time, which he alledged was very quick, conſidering that load of ſin that lay heavy upon his Conſcience; and the other was, that he had the Eſtates of two or three Widowes in his hands, which by reaſon of his ſudden cutting off, might be much injured thereby. But notwithſtanding theſe plauſible pretences, it would not hinder the Execution of Juſtice.

But one thing we had almoſt omitted; namely, That when Mr. Ordinary preached on the *Sunday*, treating of a thorough and ſound Repentance, by which they might obtain Pardon for their ſins; the Collonel in terpreting that to be meant of his Corporal Body, which Mr. Ordinary ſpake in reference to his Spiritual condition; when the Sermon was ended he ſeriouſly asked him if there were a Pardon for him or no.

But no doubt the man was thoroughly convinced of his crime, and the heynouſneſſe of it, and ſpent the whole day in ſorrow and mourning for his offences; and therefore thoſe are much too blame who reported him to be drunk that day, that he ranted and ſwore *Dam him*, and *ſink him*, he would have a Pardon though it coſt him five thouſand pound: but ſuch is the Nature of ſome baſe lying ſpirits, to inſult over men in miſery, and when they cannot touch their bodies, brand them as much as in them lies, in their very memory.

To confirm the Truth of theſe paſſages concerning Mr. Ordinary with the Collonel, we ſhall give you a Letter from his own hand, which he wrote to a perſon of quality here in *London*, who deſired of him the Relation of the whole buſineſſe.

Here followes the Letter.

Sir,

SIR,

MY Occaſions have been extraordinary, ſo as I have wanted a convenient Opportunity of recalling the ſeveral Paſſages that were between Me and Mr. Turner. I ſhall begin, after he was caſt I attended Him to the Preſs-Yard, and told Him that ſhortly the Sentence of Death would be denounced againſt him; He anſwered I dread not Death, I have looked Death oft in the face; I pray Sir pray for me, that I may not faint when the day of Death comes: I told him Death was the King of Terrour; and a man had need of a ſtrong Faith to ſhield him againſt the fiery Darts of Death from hurting the Soul. He replyed Sir we ſhall have time to talk of theſe Things Monday or Tueſday; I pray ſaid he call upon me as oft as you can: Tueſday night I waited on him, and told him, Colonel I am come to repeat the Sentence juſtly denounced againſt you by the Judge, and I aſſure you, you

ſhall die and not live, therefore my advice is to ſet your Houſe in order; what do you mean by that ſaid he? my Meaning is your outward Affairs relating to your Family, and in ſatisfiing thoſe that have intruſted you: but principally the Cloſet of your Soul, to ſee that it be furniſhed with the Grace of Almighty God, as faith, repentance, &c. I pray Sir ſaid he direct me, for I believe I am not a man for this World. Sir I ſhould have told you that Sunday *in the afternoon he came to Chapel, carried himſelf very ſoberly; heard my* Sermon *attentively, which was out of the Book of* Numbers, Balams *wiſh who I told him had lived a curſer, a ranter: He deſires O that I might die the Death of the Righteous, and that my later end were like his. He gave me thanks for my* Sermon, *and told me he hoped it would do his Soul good.*

I told him Meditation *was the way to make the word fruitful. I deſired him to diſmiſs the Company that frequented him; and to do as* Hezekiah, *when ſentance was paſſed, he prayed and wept ſore. Pray to God for pardon of ſin, and bath the feet of your* Saviour *with your penitential Tears, and your* Saviour *will bath your*

your Soul in the fountain of his moſt pretious Blood. Sir ſaid he, I ſhall take your advice: Notwithſtanding, Company preſſed on him. Wedneſday *I viſited him with the reſt of the Priſoners in Chapel; pray'd and adviced them, where I met with a true Penitent* Jane Cradock *who had ſpent all her time after ſentence in mourning and lamenting: I return'd to Collonel* Turner, *he gave me ten ſhillings for my Sermon, and ſome other monies to hire a Coach to ſpeak to the Lord Chief Juſtice to allow him a longer time for his repentance and preparation to die, and to ſatisfie four Widowes who had intruſted him with large ſumms* 4000l. *as I remember; I went to the Lord Chancellor where I found the Judges, moved in his behalf but his requeſt could not be granted, die he muſt the morrow by eight of the Clock or time uſually appointed; I gave him notice thereof, his reply Lord God I have been a great ſinner and ſhall I have ſo ſmall a time of repentance: God is more mercifull then man, or I have no hope. I told him it was not the length of time, but the truth of repentance God looked at; a moments true repentance the Theif's caſe was accepted; be as Penitent as he, and you ſhall not*

fail of remiſſion, the proofe whereof will be by the Concomitants confeſſed reſtitution, forgiving others; I ſhall do all and obſerve ſaid he your Method: I pray'd God to aſſiſt him in this his conflict. Thurſday I came to him, I found him very penſive, he deſired the Communion, we made a pauſe at laſt, having preſt him to reſtitution, he promiſed he would to his power. I found by him his power was ſmall, he had lived high upon the Eſtate of others, as I perceived by ſome paſſages that dropt from his Lips; therefore I told him where you wanted a power, the will was accepted. I demanded who would receive the Communion? he anſwers, Himſelf, his Wife, his Sons and Daughters; I demanded whether his Sons and Daughters had received the Communion before? they anſwered no, ſome of um, others they were not prepared; his Wife alſo refuſed to receive with him, but we perſwaded Her to joyne in that Sacred Performance with her Husband, otherwiſe it would be adjudged ſhe had no charity for him; he importuned her and ſaluted her, ſo ſhe came after conſecration: I adminiſtred, when the Cup was delivered to him I found a heart of ſtone become

become a heart of Fleſh, and the Blood of Chriſt melt the Adamant; for before he received, he brake forth into this ſpeech, Lord Jeſus dear God I pray that this Blood may not ſeal up my Damnation who have been a great Offender. Lord thy Blood is able to ſave me O God, thou never didſt caſt away penitent ſinners: Let thy Blood ſeal up my Salvation dear Lord. So he drank it, and after ſaid, I have comfort in my Soul. He was very attentive to the Admonitions of my Self and Lord Bartlet's *Chaplain, who went with me in Cart. That is all I can ſay who am.*

Your Loving Friend

JOHN WELDON,

Ord. of *Newgate*,

& Dept. to Clarkes, &c.

Thurſday Morning being come (the fatall Day appointed for his Execution,) he was very intent upon his preparation for another World; and ſpent the Morning wholly with the Miniſters, and in taking leave of his Wife and Children, to whom he gave many good and wholeſome admonitions. About 10 a clock both the Sheriffs came in Perſon to conduct him to the place of Execution. Coming out of the Preſſe-Yard, and ſeeing a Cart there prepared to carry him; he was ſomewhat abaſhed, and deſired of Sir *Richard Ford* (one of the Sheriffs) he might have a Coach, which was denyed, Sir *Richard* telling him the King had ordered it otherwiſe; Then did he deſire he might walk on foot, but that neither would be granted, whereupon he went up into the Cart, and being by the Officer ordered to ſit in the Body of the Cart, the uſual Place for Offenders; he deſired to be permitted to ride on the Copps, but that alſo was denyed, and ſo he was tyed according to the cuſtome of Fellons. There rode with him in the ſame Cart, Mr. Ordinary of *Newgate*, and another Miniſter; great was the Confluence of People all the way he paſſed along the ſtreets, the Windows being ſo thronged as hath not been known in the memory of Man upon the like occaſion.

Being come to the Place of Execution, (which was in *Leaden-Hall*-Street, at *Lime-Street* end, where a Gibbet was Erected,) He called the Executioner unto him, and told him, that his Friends deſired his Cloaths, and therefore in Conſideration of them, he gave hime *fifty ſhillings*, and halfe a Crown beſides to Drink. He alſo gave 15*s*. to the Serjeants and Yeomen there preſent to ſee his Body and Cloaths delivered to one Mrs. *Smith*, a Neighbour that lived hard by, then looking round about upon the People, addreſſing himſelf to the Sheriffes, he made a long Speech, the ſubſtance whereof is this.

CHAP.

Chap. VII.

The Speech of Collonel James Turner *at his Execution, with his Character, as also an example of his horrible Swearing.*

He confeſſed that it was the greatneſs of his ſins that brought him thither; the greateſt of which was prophaneneſs, blaſpheming God, and taking his name in vaine; that he was much addicted to Company, yet never accompanied with Theives, or ſuch baſe inferiour people, but by hearing others Swear got a habit of it, though inwardly he deteſted it. That for the fact which brought him thither it was of his own contriving, and that his two Sons *John* and *Ely* were ignorant of it, and therefore deſired they might be releaſed. That his Father was a Reverend Divine, a Gentleman of good Life and Converſation. That his Wife was deſcended from a Family of repute in *Darſet* Shire, one of her Uncles having lent the late King 8000l. That his Wife now being brought to this diſtreſs, his two Children might be releaſt for her comfort, and not to add affliction to her affliction. That he was afraid the crying ſinnes of this Nation, (without Gods wonderfull mercy,) would bring ſome heavy puniſhment upon it. That the diſlike of the diſorders in the World, hath made him many times wiſh himſelf in his grave. That being a Boy, men were more friendly & given to Hoſpitality; but that now the World was full of malice and difference. Then did he free himſelf of ſome Calumnies caſt upon him, and gave account of his ſervice under the old King. Next did he fall upon the occaſion of his coming thither, imputing it to the juſt hand of God for his ſinnes, deſiring all people to take warning by him; that had he not been Arreſted at that ſad juncture of time Mr. *Tryan* had had every penny worth of his Goods and Money again, deſiring God to forgive them that was the hinderance thereof. Then did he vindicate himſelf of ſome other Calumnies

umnies cast upon him, namely concerning that sad fire in *Loathbury*; of which he protested his innocency therein, As likewise some Money that was lost in *Coleman*-Street, which he averred he never knew of. He also purged himself of an imputation laid upon him, concerning a Gentleman of his own Name that lay in his House, as if something should be put into his Drink to dispatch him out of this World, (the Gentleman dying suddenly) of which he likewise declared his innocency. Next did he give some breif account of his Faith and Profession, how he had been bred up in the Protestant Profession, and was a zealous practiser of the Rites and Ceremonies belonging thereunto: That he was truely and heartily sorrowful for his sinnes; desiring of God the forgiveness of them. That he had made a true and faithfull confession, and restitution so far as in him lay, and that his repentance was not feigned, desiring to be with Christ in Glory, and that he was in perfect Charity with the whole World.

Next did he free himself of some imputations that he was drunk the Sunday before in Prison. Desiring some order might be taken concerning the Hole in *Newgate*, that poor Prisoners might have some Boards to lie down upon them in ease, that they might not be so tormented, when they should be preparing for their ends. Afterwards he desired them about him to joyne with him in prayer, in which he earnestly begged for the forgiveness of his sinnes; Praying heartily for the Kings *Majesty*, and all the Royal Family; as also for the Majestrates and Ministers of the Land. That God would provide and take care for his Wife & Children. Thanking him for that space of time for Repentance, and that he was not cut off by sudden death: desiring God thorough Jesus Christ, to wash away his sinnes, and receive his Soul.

Then did Mr. Ordinary of *Newgate* pray with him, afterwards he had some private Ejaculations, wherein he exprest much sorrow for his sinnes, and earnestly begged pardon for them. Then taking his leave of the Sheriffs, desiring to be remembred to the L. Maior, & the rest of the Aldermen, he addres'd himself for his last minute, still earnestly beging of God

for

for mercie, and desiring for his comfort the Doctor to read to him those Verses in the second of the *Hebrews*, being the 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 Verses.

Next did he give 40. *s.* to a Minister, to be given to the poor of that Parish; and 18. *s.* 6. *d.* more for his Wife, to be delivered to his young Sons School-master.

Afterwards he directed the Executioner to take off the Halter from his shoulders; which being done, he took it in his hands, kissed it, and put it about his neck himself; and having fitted his Cap, went out of the Cart (wherein he made his Speech) upon the Ladder: where the Executioner tying the Rope, and pulling it something too much, he very smartly said to him, *What, dost thou mean to choak me? pray fellow, give me more rope: How long hast thou been Executioner, that thou knowest not how to place the Halter.* Then bidding the Executioner not to turn him off till he gave him a sign, he again fell to Prayers; and desiring the Lord to receive his soul, upon the sign given he was turned off the Ladder.

After some short time he was cut down, and his bodie conveyed to the House of Mistris *Smith* a neighbour near by, where it continued till ——— when it was buried very decently, at the Parish Church of St. *Andrews* Undershaft.

And this was the end of Mr. *James Turner*, a man who by the course of Nature might have lived many years longer. He was a person of a middle stature, something corpulent, but active: of a chearfull countenance, which he kept up even to the very period of his life, not much changing to the very last. He was one very loving to his Wife, and indulgent to his Children; of a high spirit, which having not an Estate answerable thereto, caused him to fall into many errours. His vices were great and many; yet were they not without a mixture of Vertues and other good qualities. He was much addicted to the sin of Swearing: a vice which hath in it neither profit nor pleasure; and unless a man be wholly given up to wickedness, cannot but strike the Conscience with much regret in the committing of it. He was

very charitable to the poor, especially to such who had formerly been able to give themselves: But his thoughts were vaster then his estate; and therefore (as I formerly hinted) I am perswaded the occasion of this his last wicked act was to have wherewithal to keep up that state and grandure he had formerly lived in, fearing nothing so much as to strike sail, and stoop to the privacie of an ordinary way of life. Many were the troubles he had passed through, which we may think he rather desired then studied to avoid; as some men delight to fish in troubled waters, so did he take pleasure in divers and intricate troubles; though I conceive the profit arising by them was the greatest motive to make him undertake them. For his valour, we find not much commendation of him; yet do not I think he was a Coward, as some have aspersed him. Indeed (as I said before) his vices were many and great, especially that horrid sin of Cursing and Swearing: whereof we shall give you an example, as a Warning to all those who are addicted to those horrid crimes; which we received from the hands of one who knew all the passages for truth.

ABout *Septemb.* 1662. Col. *James Turner* sent to a Citizen of *London* to come to him to the Castle Tavern in *Cornhil*, who found a Gentleman with the said *Turner*, to whom two Captains also came; *Turner* entreated the Citizen he sent for to move a Company, of which the Citizen was a member, to give out of their bounty ten pounds to release a prisoner out of the Fleet, which was by him promised, and some few days after granted by the said Company, and the prisoner set at liberty. *Turner* swore very much without any provocation; the Citizen told him if he continued to swear, he would not stay in his company. Whiles they were drinking a Blackamoor-boy of some 14 years of age brought pipes

pipes and ſmall beer. *Turner* ſwore and curſt the Boy, and ſaid he was like the Devil, for which the company did much reprove him, the Drawer ſtanding by ſaid, the Blackamoor was to be baptized the next Lords day with his Maſters child, his wife then lying in. The Citizen to try the Blackamoors fitneſs for baptiſm, asked him Who made him? who anſwered, God. *Turner* very furiouſly replied and ſwore deſperately the Devil made him, earneſtly ſaying and ſwearing, *You rogue, the Devil made you, God never made you.* The Citizen deſired *Turner* to forbear his ſwearing, and had much ado to get him to be quiet; whilſt he asked him further interrogatories, the Blackmoor replied Chriſtian like anſwers to the queſtions of Who redeemed him, Who ſanctified and preſerved him, wherefore God made him, and ſeveral other Chriſtian-like anſwers the Boy gave, till he came to anſwer to the Prieſtly, Prophetical and Kingly Office of Chriſt. *Turner* ſtill continued vehemently curſing and ſwearing againſt the Boy. It being now near ten a clock at night, the four Gentlemen preſent, and alſo the Drawer and the Blackamoor, *Turner* ſitting with his face againſt the caſement, therein came a mighty great flap or ſtroke upon the window as if two great wings would have drove the window into the room upon the company, which made them all in a great amazement, whereupon the Citizen ran to the window, opened the caſement, but could not ſee any thing as the cauſe, not a quarrel broke, nor any dirt upon the window. *Turner* gave over curſing and ſwearing, and ſate as a man ready to ſink into the ground,

that one of the Captains told *Turner* this is becauſe of your ſwearing and curſing. The window was near a ſtory from the yard which belonged to the Tavern, and a Shed of boards from it downward, that in no probability any man did it.

CHAP. VIII.

Col. *Turner vindicated in ſeveral aſperſions caſt upon him.*

Hitherto have we given you a Narative of his life and converſation, which as it was bad, ſo have ſome men endeavoured to make it worſe then it was, rendring him rather a Monſter then a man, and upon ſlight conjectural grounds have added ſtuff of their own brain to make it paſs with the more likelyhod, ſo that what at firſt was but a molehill, ſoon becomes a mountain, according to *Ovid*.

The thing at firſt invented, great doth grow,
And every one doth ſomething add thereto.

As may be inſtanced in their Calumniation of him, that he ſhould take two hundred pounds of the Lady *Hewyt* to procure a pardon for her Husband, and that he never did any thing in the buſineſs; which when he heard of (being when he was in *Newgate*) he ſent one Mr. *Gray* of *Black Fryers* to the Lady *Hewyts*, being thirty two mile off, with all the ſpeed he could, for a Certificate under her hand, to quit him of that aſperſion, which ſhe accordingly did in a Meſſage to the King, the Coppy of which Letter (as I received it from Miſtris *Turner*,) I ſhall give you Verbatim, *viz.*

To

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty:

WHereas I have received intimation that your Majeſty is informed that James Turner *Gent. Priſoner in Newgate did receive* 200 *l. in order to the ſaving the life of my late dear murthered Husband Dr.* John Hewyt, *and did nothing therein but kept the money.*

Theſe are humbly to certifie your Majeſty, that I never knew or heard that the ſaid James Turner *was imployed thereabouts, nor did he ever receive any ſuch ſum of money of me, or any other to my knowledge, nor do I know him. And this I do upon the requeſt of the ſaid Mr.* Turner *make bold to atteſt under my hand this* 18 *day of* January, 1663.

MARY HEWYT.

George Gray maketh Oath that he did ſee the above written Certificate Signed and acknowledged by the Lady *Mary Hewyt.*

Jo. Bramſton. *George Gray.*

But that the ſaddle might be laid on the right Horſe, the truth is; it was one Col. *Whetton*, a perſon very intimate with the Uſurper, who by fair promiſes got 235. *l.* of the Lady, ſhe ſo dearly affected her Husband, that ſhe would have parted with her whole eſtate to have ſaved his life. This *Whetton* pretended that a hundred pound of it was for Secretary *Thurlow*, who he ſaid was likewiſe to be inſtrumental towards it; but *Thurlow* cleared himſelf of it by a Letter, ſo that the whole blame lies upon *Whetton*.

Another

Another Calumnie is commonly reported of him, that being beyond Sea with our now Gracious Sovereign, he ſhould deceive him of ſome ſums of Monie wherewith he had been entruſted: but this is eaſie to be refuted, it being well known he was never out of *England*, and ſo by conſequence could not be culpable of that offence. I ſhould therefore adviſe people not to be too credulous of every report they hear of him: as that which ſome have confidently reported, That becauſe he alwaies kept two or three brave Geldings, that *He was the head of all the high-way-men in England*; and that under pretence of ſoliciting mens buſineſſes, which occaſioned him to ſtay out late ſome nights, that it was onely a cloak to blind the eyes of the world, when he was abroad upon worſe matters: inſomuch that the Tanners of *Rumford*, and other Market folks, ſince his death have been bold to ſay, *That they hoped now they ſhould ride ſafe home, ſince that great Robber* Turner *was dead*. But for theſe and ſch like conjectural ſtories, I ſhall deſire the Reader to ſuſpend his judgment til Time (the father of Truth) ſhall bring things to light.

For that of one *Marſhal*, concerning ſome Monie that was loſt in *Coleman-ſtreet*, as alſo that he ſhould cheat a woman by a falſe Deed; there is ſo little of likelihood in it, that were it not onely to ſtop the mouths of ſome who are apt to believe every falſe report, I ſhould not ſo much as once mention them.

Therefore though his Vices were great, yet we ought not to lay other mens faults upon him, onely upon ſuppoſition, which is no evidence in Law; and of the two ought rather to judge the beſt, or at leaſt to weigh and conſider throughly the contrary Reaſons, leſt we come under the laſh of the Poet,

He that dith judge, and will but one ſide hear,
Though he judge right, he's no good Juſticer.

But it is a known obſervation, That in ſuch calamitous caſes more is commonly charged then proved: and it may be his adverſaries obſerved *Machiavels* Rule, To throw dirt enough upon him, for that ſome would ſtick. For I have obſerved,

obſerved, That let a lie be invented, though never ſo ridiculous, it ſhall meet with ſome fools that will believe it: Witneſs that ſtory about ten years ago of the great Giants coming into *England*. No doubt his crimes were very great, for which we may judge his exceſſes were the greateſt occaſions of them. In the mean time, Humanity commands us to think the beſt of him, and to pitie his Wife and ſix Children whom he left behind him, the onely remains of ſeven and twentie by one woman; whereof two he left behind him in priſon, upon account of the ſame fact.

But one thing is known to many for a truth, which indeed comes near to inhumanitie and barbarouſneſs; namely, his preſerving ſome of the Fat or other parts of the Corps of divers perſons lately executed for Treaſon, (as thoſe who have ſeen it with him have informed me,) which though pretended to be uſed for the making an excellent Medicine he had for the Gout, yet it is a moſt unmanly thing to have no reverence to Humane Blood, though in perſons juſtly puniſhed.

Nor could this perſon, who had been ſo litigious in his life, reſt free from ſuſpicion after his death; a common rumour being bruited, That he was not hanged till quite dead, but that afterwards by means uſed to him, recovered again to life: But this ſtorie being moſt of all ridiculous, I leave to be believed by thoſe that are more credulous then my ſelf.

I ſhall conclude with a merrie Epitaph which was made by an ingenious perſon upon him, leaving it to the Reader to judge of it as he pleaſes.

HEre lies the Careaſs of a wretched Wight,
Who at Noon-day did bid the world Good-night.
Of what Sect he was of, there's few can tell,
He (like Eraſmus) hung 'twixt Heaven and Hell.
Valiant by conſequence he muſt be ſed,
He ſcorn'd to die (like Cowards) in his bed:
And whereas others run from Death's embrace,
He boldly went to meet him in the face.
Laſtly, his Courage was ſo mighty too,
He did what all that ſaw him fear'd to do.

FINIS.

Postscript.

LEt the Reader take notice we hear there is a Rumour of a false Copy which is likely to come forth, let him beware of it, lest it abuse the Memory of the Dead.